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THREE LEADING ILLINOIS HEALTH IT ORGANIZATIONS RAISE AWARENESS OF HEALTH IT WEEK

Chicago, Illinois, August 23, 2012 - To mark the important role health information technology plays in improving health care delivery across Illinois and in the nation, the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE), the Illinois Health Information Management Association (ILHIMA), the Greater Chicago Chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (GCCHIMSS) and others across the country have joined together to celebrate National Health IT Week during the week of September 10, 2012.

National Health IT Week is an opportunity for public and private healthcare constituents to work in partnership to educate industry and policy stakeholders on the value of health IT for the US healthcare system. There is no better time for ILHIE, ILHIMA, GCCHIMSS and the health IT community to come together to raise awareness.

Comprehensive health care reform is not possible without system-wide adoption of health information technology, which improves the quality of healthcare delivery, increases patient safety, decreases medical errors, and strengthens the interaction between patients and healthcare providers.

With Meaningful Use now providing a path forward, eligible providers across the country increasingly understand the benefits for themselves and their patients and are adopting Meaningful Use compliant electronic health records.

About the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE)

The Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) is a statewide, secure electronic network for sharing clinical and administrative data among health care providers in Illinois. The ILHIE allows providers to exchange electronic health information in real time and in a secure environment to improve health care quality and patient care. The Illinois

Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) is working with the ILHIE Authority to support its development.

ILHIE Direct, the first offering of the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE), is an encrypted, HIPAA compliant email service for providers to securely share patient health information. ILHIE Direct is available at no cost throughout 2012 to licensed Illinois health care providers and staff members involved in patient care.

To learn more about health information exchange in Illinois or to register for ILHIE Direct visit www.hie.illinois.gov/, To join the ILHIE Listserv <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/HIE/Pages/notify.aspx>

About the Illinois Health Information Management Association (ILHIMA)

The Illinois Health Information Management Association will set the standard and be the recognized leader in health information management practice, education, and advocacy in Illinois. As the membership organization of health information management professionals, the Illinois Health Information Management Association fosters the professional development of its members through education and lifelong learning. These commitments promote quality health information for the benefit of the public, health care consumers, providers and other users of clinical data.

To learn more about ILHIMA please visit: <http://ilhima.org>

About the Greater Chicago Chapter - HIMSS (GCCHIMSS)

The Greater Chicago Chapter of HIMSS is a diverse group of experienced healthcare professionals working in the greater Chicagoland area and throughout Illinois. Our members work at hospitals, corporate health systems, consulting firms, vendor organizations, universities, and a wide variety of other organizations. GCCHIMSS has technical and clinical members that range from senior level executives to analysts and students. Its purpose is to assist members and others in developing their knowledge, increasing their effectiveness and maintaining high-quality standards of performance through educational programs and networking opportunities focusing on Healthcare IT. GCCHIMSS is the Illinois chapter of HIMSS (Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society) national; a cause-based, not-for-profit organization focused on providing global leadership for healthcare transformation through the optimal use of information technology and management systems.

To learn more about GCCHIMSS or HIMSS please visit: <http://www.gcchimss.net/> or <http://www.himss.org>

The Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE), the Illinois Health Information Management Association (ILHIMA), the Greater Chicago Chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (GCCHIMSS) are pleased to collaborate on this Health IT Week news release and encourage everyone to learn more about these three leading health IT organizations in Illinois.

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